

**Mansfield Board of Education Meeting**  
**October 16, 2008**  
**Minutes**

**Attendees:** Mary Feathers, Chair, Shamim Patwa , Vice Chair, Dudley Hamlin, Martha Kelly, Mark LaPlaca, Min Lin, Katherine Paulhus, Superintendent Fred Baruzzi, Board Clerk, Celeste Griffin  
**Absent:** Chris Kueffner, Gary Bent

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Ms Feathers, Chair.

HEARING FOR VISITORS: None

ADDITIONS TO THE PRESENT AGENDA: A draft calendar of 2009 meeting dates will be presented under New Business.

Mr. Kueffner arrived at 7:42pm.

Connecticut Greenway Program: Mr. Tim Quinn, Mansfield Depot resident and former Board Chair, reported on the Department of Environmental Protection's Connecticut Greenway Program which runs through Mansfield. He asked the district to consider field trips to discover the greenway.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Ms Feathers reported that the Building Committee met on October 15<sup>th</sup>. The committee is compiling information on land options and educational outcomes. They will continue their monthly meetings and will plan for a joint meeting with the Board, Town Council, and Building Committee.

Dr. Patwa reported that the personnel committee would like an Executive Session to discuss negotiations with the Instructional Assistants (SEIU).

Mr. Hamlin reported that the policy committee will be asking for a motion to approve the updates and revisions following the discussion in the Superintendent's Report.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:**

- June 30, 2008 Financial Statements: Cherie Trahan, Comptroller and Treasurer of Mansfield reviewed the year end financial statements. **MOTION** by Mr. Kueffner, seconded by Dr. Patwa to receive the June 30, 2008 Financial Statements. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor

- 2007-2008 Budget Transfers: **MOTION** by Dr. Patwa, seconded Mr. LaPlaca to accept the Budget Transfers for 2007-2008. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.
- Policy Book Updates/Revisions: Anne Littlefield, the Board's counsel, discussed Shipman & Goodwin's Model Policy Format and annual updates. **MOTION** by Mr. Hamlin, seconded Mr. Kueffner to accept 2008-2009 Board Policy with updates and revisions. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.
- Board Fall Retreat with Administrators: Mr. Baruzzi presented the Board with a draft form for staff to request additional funds to be used for non-budgeted instructional programs with approval by the building administrator and the superintendent. **MOTION** by Mr. Kueffner, seconded by Dr. Patwa to approve the transfer of up to \$30,000 from the salary account to support additional instructional programs. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.
- Dorothy Goodwin Bequeath: The Board was asked to consider allocation of a \$10,000 bequeath to Mansfield. Discussion followed and ideas will be discussed at a future meeting.
- Elementary School Fire Safety: Mr. Baruzzi discussed the Mansfield Fire Department's new Operations Plan for Fire Prevention and Safety Education in the elementary schools and grade five at Mansfield Middle School.
- Secondary School Redesign Proposal: Mr. Baruzzi discussed the State Board of Education's proposal and its impact on grades 6-8.
- Class Size/Enrollment: No major changes in enrollment were reported. Mr. Baruzzi reported that instructional assistants were placed as needed in classes with enrollments above the Board of Education guidelines.

NEW BUSINESS: A draft calendar of 2009-2010 Board Meeting dates was distributed for review and approved at the November 13, 2008 meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA: **MOTION** by Mr. LaPlaca, seconded Mrs. Paulhus that the following items for the Board of Education meeting of October 16, 2008 be approved or received for the record:

That the Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education approves the minutes of the September 11, 2008 Board meeting.

That the Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education approves the increase in salary for educational improvement for the following certified staff: Tara Achane, Brenda Bissell, Julie Brennan, Sandra Burns, Ann Levesque, Megan Baker, Judy Baxter, Sharon Cline, Nora Dickinson, Heather Tamsin, and Ryley Zawodniak.

That the Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education approves the revision of the Authorized Signatures Change Form of the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs.

That the Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education approves the DEMHS School Security Competitive Grant Application for the period of July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009.

That the Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education accepts the Liberty Bank Foundation Grant Award for the 2008-2009 school year.

That the Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education cancels the October 30, 2008 meeting.

**VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

HEARING FOR VISITORS: NONE

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA: NONE

EXECUTIVE SESSION: **MOTION** by Mr. Kueffner, seconded Mrs. Paulhus to move into Executive Session at 9:30 p.m. to discuss collective bargaining contract negotiations. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

**MOTION** by Mr. LaPlaca, seconded by Mrs. Paulhus to return to open session at 9:50 p.m. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

**MOTION** by Dr. Patwa, to adjourn at 9:50 p.m. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Celeste N. Griffin, Board Clerk